O – Henry

William Sydney Porter 1862 N. Carolina

Died 1910 (48) - alcoholic

“embezzled” $1000 from a poorly run bank

He was found guilty, but insisted he was innocent

Ran away to Honduras, but came back because his wife was dying

Server his sentence over 3 years / during this time is where he got his name (O – henry) from a prison guard who was nice to him

During that time he wrote over 300 short stories

Studied the dictionary and used high vocabulary

What does he write about?

The average guy (Storekeepers, bums, clerks, etc.0 – people that don’t stand out in existence / they are average at best

He held many jobs (bookkeeper, draftsman, druggist, bank teller, reporter, hand on sheep ranch)

Lived mostly in New York and Texas -0 lived and used settings for his stories

Noted for Ironic endings

“the opposite of what you expect)

Double Irony

2 ironies at the end of the story

every single one of these stories has been remade for TV or a movie (an episode in a series that mirrors this)

anthem = hymn